

Remarks/Arguments

In the March 11, 2005 office action, claims 18, 19, 21 and 22 were rejected under section 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 4,970,852 to Check et al. Claims 1-7, 10-13, 15 and 17 were rejected under section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Check et al in view of US Patent No. 6,637,081 to Kulkaski. Claims 8-9 and 14 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims.

In response to the office action, applicant amends claims 1, 12 and 18.

Claim 1 is amended to specify a reinforcing member extending laterally across the lower panel. Check discloses a pair of "horns" 42 which "angle upwardly from frame 12." See column 6, lines 8-11. Check also discloses "grooves 142 formed in side walls 140." See column 8, lines 9-11. Check fails to show a reinforcing member that extends laterally across the lower panel of a grass catcher. Kulkaski discloses hollow ball 5 formed of a plastic material that is designed to hold the grass catcher door open. See column 2, lines 45-50. Kulkaski states: "Ball 5 can hold open the lawnmower's spring loaded rear trap door." See column 2, lines 56-57. The upper portion (e.g., spring clip elements 8) of Kulkaski's grass catcher bag 9, not a lower panel, hold the trap door open. Kulkaski fails to show a reinforcing member that extends laterally across the lower panel of a grass catcher.

Claim 12 is amended to specify a reinforcing member extending laterally across at least a portion of the lower panel near the elevated lip. As discussed above, Check discloses a pair of "horns" 42 which "angle upwardly from frame 12" and "grooves 142 formed in side walls 140." Check fails to show a reinforcing member that extends laterally across at least a portion of the lower panel of a grass catcher near an elevated lip. Kulkaski discloses hollow ball 5 formed of a plastic material to hold the grass catcher door open. Kulkaski does not disclose a reinforcing member that extends laterally across at least a portion of the lower panel of a grass catcher near an elevated lip.

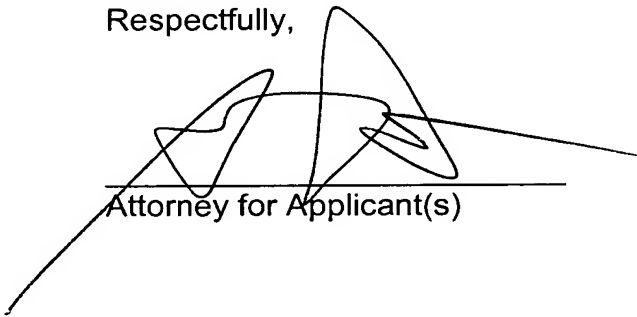
Claim 18 is amended to specify, a reinforcing member extending laterally across at least a portion of the lower lip, and retaining structures formed integrally with the lower lip being the only structures gripping the reinforcing member in place.

Check fails to show a reinforcing member extending laterally across at least a portion of the lower lip.

In conclusion, it is believed that claims 1 - 15, 17 - 19, and 21-22 are in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully,

  
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